

TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
February 26, 2019

CALL TO ORDER: 6:30 p.m.

INVOCATION: Pastor Roger Wills, Trinity Free Methodist Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: All members were present.

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND REMONSTRATIONS:

Mr. Hardaway read the Proclamation for Chasing Dreams for Disability Month. Mr. Hardaway announced that March will be Disability Awareness Month for the Town of Merrillville. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the proclamation and was seconded by Mrs. Barron. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Mrs. Barron read the Proclamation for the Merrillville Pirates Wrestling Team. Mr. Hardaway congratulated all wrestling members and coaching staff for their achievement at Semi State and Sate Finals. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the proclamation and was seconded by Ms. LaMarca. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of the Accounts Payable Register Voucher dated February 26, 2019. Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes of February 12, 2019 and February 20, 2019. Mrs. Uzelac made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

BUDGET & FINANCE:

Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve the LWG CPAs & Advisors and Engagement Letter for the Municipal Advisory Services and was seconded by Mr. Pettit. Some discussion followed. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Mr. Minchuk made a motion to lift the table from the previous meeting with discussion for the Hunter's Glen North Phase 1 subdivision. Mr. Pettit seconded the motion to open discussion for Hunter's Glenn. Discussion followed.

Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve the Hunter's Glen North Phase 1 and was seconded by Mr. Minchuk. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Pettit announced that construction will begin on March 4th on 101st Avenue between Mississippi and Georgia Street till November.

Mr. Pettit made a motion to accept the agreement from Butler Fairman and Seufert and not to exceed the amount of \$39,000. Mrs. Uzelac seconded the motion. Some discussion followed. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

COUNCIL AFFAIRS:

Ms. LaMarca had no report.

PERSONNEL POLICY & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS:

Mr. Pettit announced the retirement of the Town Manager Mr. Spires on August 31st and thanked him for his dedication to the Town of Merrillville. Mr. Pettit said the job posting will be internally per personnel manual. Mr. Pettit said after a period of time and depending on the applicants a Personnel Executive Session will be held to discuss the next step in choosing the Town Manager. Discussion followed.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Mrs. Uzelac had several calls regarding a large amount of pot holes located in the fourth ward. Mrs. Uzelac said she reported them to Mr. Spires and he suggested reporting them directly to the Streets Department to have them repaired.

PARKS & RECREATION:

Ms. LaMarca made a motion to lift the table from the last meeting regarding the Impact Fees Study Advisory Committee and was seconded by Mr. Spann. Discussion followed. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Ms. Olrich said in preparing for the 5 year Master Plan there will be a Public Meeting at Pruzin Park on Tuesday March 12th. Ms. Olrich said the sign on Broadway for the future Community Center was blown away by the strong winds. Mrs. Olrich said she was glad no one was hurt and that there was no damage done from the sign the sign will not be replaced due to the unpredictable weather.

Ms. LaMarca made a motion to approve the committee for the Impact Fees Study Advisory and was seconded by Mrs. Barron. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS:

Mr. Barron announced that the Cap Program has begun all caps collected will be used to make recyclable benches caps should be turned into the Parks Department.

Mr. Lake said they are reviewing all paving projects and drainage associated with that getting everything wrapped up before the paving starts. Mr. Lake said the project that is getting started is a bridge off of 78th just east of Whitcomb some other assessments might be involved.

ELECTIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS:

Mrs. Uzelac had no report. Mr. Hardaway announced that Mrs. Perez from MIS was in the audience needing video of all the council members for Municipal Day to present to the student who are interested in participating.

Mr. Petti said just a reminder March 19th he will be partnering with Congressman Visclosky at the Chamber Luncheon at Gambas at noon and will be delivering the State of the Town Address and the congressman will be there making a presentation on North West Indiana contact Mrs. Gaza for reservations. Some discussion followed.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

Mr. Pettit said there were 2 actions that were taking by the Plan and Commission Committee as recommendations to the council the first one is the vacating certain recorded plats of subdivision pursuant to the provisions in the Y & W subdivisions. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the recommendations and was seconded by Mrs. Barron. Some discussion followed. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Mr. Pettit made a motion to vacating certain recorded plats of subdivision pursuant to the provisions in the Broadfield subdivision and was seconded by Mrs. Uzelac. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

UTILITY LIAISON:

Mr. Spann had no report.

ABANDONED PROPERTIES:

President Hardaway had no report.

GENERAL ORDERS:

FIRST READING ORDINANCES:

Ord. 19-04:

An Ordinance amending ordinance 18-09, the town deferral program in the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, and all matters relate thereto. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mrs. Uzelac. There was no discussion. The motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

Ord. 19-05:

An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, creating budget line items within the local user fee fund. Mrs. Uzelac made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion. The motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

Ord. 19-06:

An Ordinance of the Town Of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, depleting monies of the 2019 budget within certain funds mandated by the department of local government finance. Mrs. Uzelac made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion. The motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

SECOND READING ORDINANCES:

Ord. 19- 01:

An Ordinance vacating an easement in the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, and all matters related thereto. Mrs. Uzelac made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no public comment or discussion. The motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

Ord. 19- 03:

An Ordinance authorizing the Clerk-Treasurer of the Town of Merrillville to make certain disbursements for necessary or emergency payments prior to confirmation of claims. Mrs. Uzelac made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no public comment or discussion. The motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

RESOLUTIONS:

None

BZA ACTIONS:

None

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Hardaway read a letter going to the Lake County Board and Commissioners of notification that Mr. Yerger Fire Department Chief will represent the Town of Merrillville to be on the Lake County Home Land Security/ EMA Advisory Council.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

All public comment is recorded on an audio file and kept on file in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office at Town Hall.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Board of Zoning Appeals meeting, February 27, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

Abandoned Blight Properties Commission meeting February 28, 2019 at 2:30 a.m.

Police Commission meeting, March 1, 2019 at 8:00 a.m.

Plan Commission workshop meeting, March 5, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

Stormwater Management Board meeting, March 12, 2019 at 4:30 p.m.

Town Council meeting, March 12, 2019, at 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Pettit made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Mrs. Uzelac.

Richard Hardaway, President

Eugene Guernsey, Clerk-Treasurer